

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

- 1-36. **(Canceled)**
37. **(Previously presented)** A nucleotide molecule encoding a modified food allergen whose amino acid sequence is substantially identical to that of an unmodified food allergen except that at least one amino acid has been modified in at least one IgE epitope so that IgE binding to the modified food allergen is reduced as compared with IgE binding to the unmodified food allergen, the at least one IgE epitope being one that is recognized when the unmodified food allergen is contacted with serum IgE from an individual that is allergic to the unmodified food allergen.
38. **(Previously presented)** The nucleotide molecule of claim 37 wherein at least one amino acid has been modified in all the IgE epitopes of the unmodified food allergen.
39. **(Previously presented)** The nucleotide molecule of claim 37 wherein the at least one IgE epitope is one that is recognized when the unmodified food allergen is contacted with a pool of sera IgE taken from a group of at least two individuals that are allergic to the unmodified food allergen.
40. **(Previously presented)** The nucleotide molecule of claim 37 wherein at least one modified amino acid is located in the center of the at least one IgE epitope.
41. **(Previously presented)** The nucleotide molecule of claim 37 wherein at least one amino acid in the at least one IgE epitope of the unmodified food allergen has been modified by substitution.

42. **(Currently amended)** The nucleotide molecule of claim 41 wherein at least one amino acid in the at least one IgE epitope of the unmodified food allergen is hydrophobic, and wherein said at least one hydrophobic amino acid in the at least one IgE epitope of the unmodified food allergen has been substituted by a neutral or hydrophilic amino acid.
43. **(Previously presented)** The nucleotide molecule of claim 37 wherein the modified food allergen activates T cells.
44. **(Previously presented)** The nucleotide molecule of claim 37 in a vector for expression in a host cell.
45. **(Previously presented)** The nucleotide molecule of claim 37 wherein the modified food allergen is based on a protein obtained from a source selected from the group consisting of legumes, milks, grains, eggs, fish, crustaceans, and mollusks.
46. **(Previously presented)** The nucleotide molecule of claim 45 wherein the modified food allergen is based on a protein obtained from a source selected from the group consisting of wheat, barley, cow milk, egg, codfish, hazel nut, soybean, and shrimp.
- 47-55. **(Canceled)**
56. **(Previously presented)** The nucleotide molecule of claim 37, wherein 1-6 amino acid residues have been modified in the at least one IgE epitope.
57. **(Previously presented)** The nucleotide molecule of claim 37, wherein 1-5 amino acid residues have been modified in the at least one IgE epitope.
58. **(Previously presented)** The nucleotide molecule of claim 37, wherein 1-4 amino acid residues have been modified in the at least one IgE epitope.

59. **(Previously presented)** The nucleotide molecule of claim 37, wherein 1-3 amino acid residues have been modified in the at least one IgE epitope.
60. **(Previously presented)** The nucleotide molecule of claim 37, wherein 1-2 amino acid residues have been modified in the at least one IgE epitope.
61. **(Previously presented)** The nucleotide molecule of claim 37, wherein 1 amino acid residue has been modified in the at least one IgE epitope.
- 62-67. **(Canceled)**